

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q75081

Akira SAKAWAKI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/552,445

Group Art Unit: 1773

Confirmation No.: 2287

Examiner: Kevin M. BERNATZ

Filed: March 29, 2006

For: MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM, PRODUCTION PROCESS THEREOF, AND
MAGNETIC RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes

prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) is attached.

Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents (Official Action issued in corresponding Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-103454 dated April 24, 2007).

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations: The submission of English language abstracts for JP-A-02-094109, JP-A-08-279195, JP-A-2001-319314 and JP-A-2002-025030 constitutes a concise statement of relevance for these documents.

In addition, computer-generated English translations for JP-A-08-279195, JP-A-2001-319314 and JP-A-2002-025030 constitute a further concise statement of relevance for these documents.

Applicant notes that the enclosed Japanese Office Action also cites WO 03/009282, JP-A-2000-276729, JP-A-2002-208127, JP-A-2001-184626 and JP-A-2000-268340. Each of these documents have been cited by applicant in previous Information Disclosure Statements. Accordingly, applicant is not submitting copies of these documents with the present Information Disclosure Statement.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

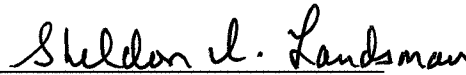
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


Sheldon I. Landsman
Registration No. 25,430

Date: May 22, 2007

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

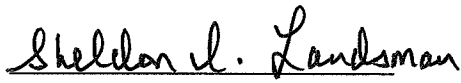
Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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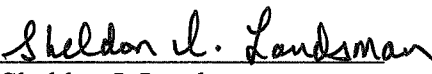
Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and that the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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| Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO <u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</u> <u>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</u> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | <i>Complete if Known</i> | |
| | | | | Application Number | 10/552,445 |
| | | | | Confirmation Number | 2287 |
| | | | | Filing Date | March 29, 2006 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Akira SAKAWAKI |
| | | | | Art Unit | 1773 |
| Examiner Name | Kevin M. BERNATZ | | | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | Q75081 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Translation ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | |
| | | JP | 02-094109 | A | 04/04/1990 | Hitachi Ltd. Hitachi Maxell Ltd. | Abstract |
| | | JP | 08-279195 | A | 10/22/1996 | TDK Corp. | Abstract & Computer-Generated Translation |
| | | JP | 2001-319314 | A | 11/16/2001 | Hitachi Ltd. | Abstract & Computer-Generated Translation |
| | | JP | 2002-025030 | A | 01/25/2002 | Hitachi Ltd. Hitachi Maxell Ltd. | Abstract & Computer-Generated Translation |
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| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or follow the hyperlink from the title of the document to the intranet. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.